

### **REMARKS**

In accordance with the foregoing, the abstract is replaced, FIG. 1 and FIG. 7B are amended and claims 1-16, 18-23, and 25-26 are amended. New claims 27-40 are added; thus, claims 1-40 are pending and under consideration.

### **DISCREPANCIES ON THE SUMMARY SHEET REQUIRING CORRECTION**

The application is indicated to be in condition for allowance, except for informalities, and prosecution is closed on the merits in accordance with practice under *Ex parte Quayle*. However, in the Office Action Summary, Status block 3 designating that status is not checked and, instead, Status block 2b) is checked, which is in error. Correction is requested.

Although Item 3 at page 2 lists claims 1, 9, 12-13, 16, 18-19, 22-23, and 25-26 as objected to, the Office Action Summary under the heading "DISPOSITION OF CLAIMS" indicates that only claims 1-16 are objected to. Correction is requested.

This Preliminary Amendment responds to the *Ex parte Quayle* action with regard to claims listed as objected to in Item 3.

### **ITEM 1: OBJECTION TO SPECIFICATION FOR ABSTRACT FORMAT**

A replacement abstract is provided, and withdrawal of the objection to the abstract is respectfully requested.

### **ITEM 2: OBJECTION TO SPECIFICATION FOR DRAWING INFORMALITIES**

In Fig. 1, a label --  $I_B$  -- is added, responsive to the objection to the drawing raised in the February 26, 2003 Office Action. In Fig. 7B, labels -- CLK2 -- and -- CLK3 -- are corrected. Falling edges of CLK3 are relocated, to align with rising edges of CLK2. Setup time  $\Delta_3$  lines are adjusted accordingly.

No new matter is presented and, accordingly, approval of the drawing corrections and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are respectfully requested.

### **ITEM 3: OBJECTIONS TO CLAIMS 1, 9, 12-13, 16, 18-19, 22-23, and 25-26 FOR INFORMALITIES**

Claims 1, 9, 12-13, 16, 18-19, 22-23, and 25-26 have been amended for clarification as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's efforts to identify alleged deficiencies in the claims and to provide proposed suggestions for rectifying same. Unfortunately, Applicants have not been able to understand many of the suggestions or the proposed corrections.

Nevertheless, Applicants have reviewed the claims in question and have amended same in a manner to improve form and without changing substance, and it is believed that these changes are responsive to the Examiner's concerns. In the event Applicants have not correctly interpreted the Examiner's objections and proposed corrections, Applicants respectfully request clarification of the same.

In the following, Applicants have set forth locations in the specification supporting the changes made in the amendments to those claims herein, and/or provided other clarifying comment.

Independent claims 1 and 23 have been amended to clarify elements of the digital circuitry that receive and produce signals, and to provide antecedent support. As discussed at page 20, line 33 et seq. of the application, first and second clocked elements can receive one or more first and second signal(s), respectively. The second signals, for example, can be produced by a first clocked element. (See page 21, lines 2-5).

Claim 9 has been amended to clarify that "basic signals" are --basic clock signals--. The plural form of the term, i.e., "signal(s)" is used to indicate a plurality of the same type of signal. (See page 9, lines 21-35, page 10, line 35, page 27, lines 9-12, and page 31, lines 34-36 of the application.)

Claims 12, 13, 16, 18, 19, 22, 25, and 26 are amended to afford consistent antecedent support.

In addition, claims 2-8, 10-11, 14-15, and 20-21 are amended to afford consistent antecedent support, and to correct informalities.

Accordingly, approval of the claim amendments and withdrawal of objections to all the claims is respectfully requested.

#### **NEW CLAIMS 27-40**

New claims 27-40, presenting no new matter, are provided to afford a varying scope of protection and are submitted to be allowable for the recitations therein.

#### **CONCLUSION**

No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing and, accordingly, approval and entry of the replacement abstract, drawing corrections, amended claims, and new claims are respectfully requested. There being no further outstanding objections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*June 26, 2003*

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*H. J. Staas*

H. J. Staas  
Registration No. 22,010

700 Eleventh Street, NW, Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 434-1500